



MetaLawEcon



**** CALL FOR PAPERS ****

(EXTENDED DEADLINE)

#Efficiency, #Distribution, #Inequality:

Economic Analysis of Law and Law & Political Economy in Europe

MetaLawEcon / Law and Political Economy (LPE) Europe

Joint Online Workshop

3-4 December 2021

// Idea

The renewed interest in connecting legal analysis to political economy has reinvigorated debates around economic thinking in law. In the U.S., ‘Law and Political Economy’ (LPE) is emerging as a scholarly project that highlights the constitutive role of law in the economy and that has become a sounding board for many broader political debates. While not a uniform field, LPE research translates to present economic realities the realist claim that legal entitlements determine the coercive power of market actors.

Initiated in the U.S., LPE approaches have captivated the interest of many European scholars. This workshop seeks to contribute to this exploration of LPE perspectives in Europe through a distinct angle, that is its relation to scholarship in Law & Economics. In the U.S. context, LPE is portrayed as a direct reaction to the mark that Law & Economics has left on legal thinking, legal education, and political practice over the past decades. The move beyond the “20th-century synthesis”, as suggested in a [central contribution](#) to the U.S. debate on LPE openly questions the normative focus on economic efficiency and the alleged sidelining of distributive issues under a mainstream Law & Economics lens.

We are interested in the dialectic between these two approaches to economic concepts in legal thought, in particular in terms of how they play out the European context. We believe that the burgeoning interest in LPE creates an opportunity to take stock of the state of Law & Economics in European scholarship and to investigate whether LPE ought to be understood as an immediate reaction to L&E in Europe, as it is by many constituencies in the U.S. What are commonalities and differences at the level of methodological and philosophical underpinnings between LPE and L&E? Does the context of European intellectual history in both legal and social thought give LPE

and L&E a different orientation than in the U.S.? How different are the markets and political economies that LPE and L&E scholars are studying in Europe as compared with those in the U.S.? What are the stakes of studying markets at the local, national, regional, international or, indeed, global levels?

Although we are particularly interested in comparing developments in Europe with developments in the U.S., contributions are by no means restricted to European debates. We are also keen to invite contributions from people working on L&E and LPE in other parts of the world, and we also welcome critical engagement on the topic of the possible hegemony of European and U.S.-centric approaches to L&E and LPE.

// Possible themes

The above outline invites contributions with multiple disciplinary orientations and on a wide range of themes. What follows are mere suggestions for possible directions. Contributors are invited to take up one or more of these themes or to suggest related ones. We welcome theoretical, conceptual as well as more empirically oriented contributions as well as papers combining these aspects.

- What has been the trajectory of L&E in Europe? How has it fared in theory and in influence in policy making, in comparison to its U.S. counterpart? Has L&E been a direct transfer of ideas from the U.S. or did it acquire a distinctive European *modus operandi*?
- How does the emergence of LPE and its increasing relevance in Europe challenge or renegotiate the penetration of L&E in the continent? Should LPE be understood as a solely critical project or does it have a constructive facet - and, if so, how does this compare to L&E? What makes the L&E/LPE debate different in Europe than in the US?
- How pluralistic are L&E and LPE with regards to their values, economic theories, methods, and approaches? Are they complementary or rather antagonistic projects? Around what concepts or at what level can L&E and LPE engage in productive exchange?
- What are the intellectual roots of both L&E and LPE and to what extent are they shared, e.g. in legal realism, *Freirechtsschule* (Free Law School), critical legal studies, American institutionalism?
- What can LPE learn from earlier Trans-Atlantic transfers of ideas, such as the influence of European anti-formalism on U.S. legal thought?
- How should the boundaries between disciplines be understood in the LPE? How can scholars traverse and mold these disciplinary boundaries?

// Practicalities: Timeline, publication

This call for paper proposals will lead to an online workshop on **December 3-4, 2021**. To submit a paper proposal, send an extended abstract of max. 1000 words to metalawecon@gmail.com by **4 7 September 2021**. Selection results will be communicated by mid-September.

The organizers are committed to seeking a possible publication outlet, such as a Special Issue, after the event. This will be decided subject to the number of committed authors with new and original papers.

// Organizers

This is the 12th yearly event organized by **MetaLawEcon ([website](#))**, an international research network on the philosophical and methodological foundations of economic analysis of law.

This year's workshop is hosted jointly with **'Law and Political Economy in Europe' ([website](#))**, an emerging informal network of scholars interested in understanding and promoting the role of political economy for legal thought in Europe and beyond. A core initiative is the development of an open, collaborative syllabus that can be found [here](#).

The **organizing committee** (in alphabetical order) consists of Anna Chadwick (U Glasgow), Péter Cserne (U Aberdeen), Klaas Eller (U Amsterdam), Fabrizio Esposito (U Nova of Lisbon), Ioannis Kampourakis (U Rotterdam) and Felipe Figueroa Zimmermann (U Warwick).